



Beyond G20: Reclaiming our City, restoring our future.

#ExecutiveMayorMorero

Residents of Johannesburg,

I write to you not just as your Executive Mayor, but as a fellow resident who loves this City deeply. Johannesburg is more than buildings, roads, and infrastructure; it is home. It is where our hopes, struggles, and dreams all meet.

I must be honest, our City faces serious challenges. Criminal syndicates, hijacked buildings, decaying infrastructure, and service delivery failures have taken their toll on authorities and citizens. Too many families live without reliable basic services. Too many buildings that could be homes stand abandoned or hijacked. Too many residents feel unsafe in their own homes.

Through the **Inner-City Rejuvenation Programme**, we are taking bold steps to reclaim our City. We are dismantling criminal networks, shutting down hijacked buildings, and enforcing bylaws so that Johannesburg is no longer held hostage by lawlessness. We are also repairing roads, upgrading streetlights, improving waste management, and restoring the dignity of our neighbourhoods.

This is not about quick fixes for the G20 Summit. It is about building a Johannesburg that works for its residents long after the last resolution of the summit has been adopted.

In my **2025 State of the City Address**, I committed to facing our difficulties head-on and to rebuilding this City with honesty, transparency, and determination. Our plan is clear:

- Restoring essential services so that water, electricity, and sanitation are reliable for all.
- Fixing City finances with transparency and accountability.
- Revitalising the inner city into a safe, vibrant, and livable space once again.
- Rebuilding trust between the City and its people because we cannot succeed without each other's support.

The road ahead will not be easy, but I believe in the resilience of Johannesburg and its people. Together, we can transform abandoned buildings into affordable homes, turn neglected streets into safe spaces for children to play in, and attract businesses to create jobs and opportunities.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa has said: "It is painful to witness the state our City has fallen into. But abandoned buildings can be transformed into investments—into homes for our people. Together, we can reclaim and refurbish these assets for those who need them most."

But these challenges do not define us. They are not the end of Johannesburg's story.

The world will soon turn its eyes on us as we host the **2025 G20 Summit**, the first on African soil. While this is a historic milestone, my priority remains you, the residents who live, work, and dream here every day. The summit will bring opportunities for growth, investment, and jobs. However, the legacy will be the Johannesburg we leave behind for future generations.

I ask for your partnership in this journey. Participate in community initiatives, hold us accountable, and continue sharing your ideas and concerns. This is your City and your voice matters.

Johannesburg is not for criminals. Johannesburg is not for decay. Johannesburg belongs to its people. Together, we will reclaim it, restore it, and rise stronger than ever.

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero